



OP-ED

There are obvious prejudices and misconceptions directed at anyone who calls him or herself an anarchist. The most common of these is that people assume that all anarchists are violent. I myself have experienced this taboo. Just using the word anarchist in a positive light can lead people to dismiss one's opinions. Where does this prejudice come from? Is it actually based in fact?

True, historically, a tiny minority of self-described anarchists were violent. However, the vast majority were not. Why blame an entire movement for the actions of a minority? An analogy might be helpful. Moses, prophet of 3 major religions, was violent. He is recorded as saying "Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man, but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man" (Numbers 31 verse 17--depending on the translation, this quote may vary slightly). And yet Moses is seen today as a civilizing figure. And few assume that the followers of Moses—Muslims, Jews, Christians—support the violence that Moses ordered. The difference between the way these religious people are viewed versus the way anarchists are viewed shows how irrational the hatred of anarchists is.

What is anarchy? A theory that promotes the absence of all direct or coercive government as a political ideal. Who is an anarchist? An anarchist is anyone that proposes the cooperative and voluntary association of individuals and groups as the principal mode of organized society. Historically, anarchists have been peaceful and have made significant contributions to major social and political movements worldwide. And today in the movement, most anarchists are peaceful organizers, many of whom support the recent Occupy movements and Anonymous internet campaigns.

Given that the hatred of anarchists is not rational, we might look to why it

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Adapted from "The Condition of Compliance: Strategies for Overcoming"

by Miguel Felix

...On a structural level, powerful political and economic institutions are perhaps the largest contributing factor in the continual cycle of poverty and exploitation across the world.

Economic exploitation can be illustrated by the existence of poverty-wage jobs that do not provide any possible upward mobility for workers. This arrangement maintains social stratification, allowing deprived communities to suffer, as a result of the prioritization of profit, rather than human need. As psychologist Isaac Prilleltensky has recently made clear, "governments usually cater to economic interests opposed to taxation and social expenditure." This pattern is apparent, with the obvious intentions of maintaining control in positions of power. Prilleltensky provides the example of Nicaraguan death squads along with intervention in other parts of Latin America where the CIA trained soldiers with the intention of installing new persons in power, at the same time unleashing "terror and indignity of calamitous proportions, never quite understood by the US public."

Documented research also illustrates the role that major financial institutions can have on devastating the livelihoods of poor working people across the world. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are both examples of financial bodies that have used globalization as a pretense for the privatization or elimination of public services, institution of price hikes for local consumers, and the elimination of small time competition, such as local farmers. Measures such as these are put in place in the name of economic growth, but without conditions being implemented that could otherwise provide barriers to environmental degradation or human rights abuses. Psychologists can play a vital part in the pursuit of reform, and to achieve this Prilleltensky offers his model of "psychopolitical validity." This type of validity references intervention strategies for underserved communities, bringing together two main goals. These are (1) to produce tangible tactics to encourage both psychological and political liberation while (2) also providing these communities with education on the sources of oppression...

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exists. It exists mainly because of a campaign of state propaganda that reaches deep into our educational literature, as Sigmund Freud recalled in his book, *The Interpretation of Dreams*: “Many years ago I read in a newspaper a comic instance of a false connection. On one occasion during a sitting of the French chamber a bomb thrown by an anarchist exploded in the chamber itself and Dupuy subdued the consequent panic with the courageous words: *La séance continue.*” I believe it is the only mention of an anarchist in the entire book. While I do not justify the violent act of this particular “anarchist” that Freud describes, I find it telling that Dupuy is portrayed as “courageous” for his words “*la séance continue.*” The phrase is French for, roughly translated, “may the sitting continue.” This is what politicians of today are known best for—sitting and talking. Dupuy basically admits that all the ruling class wants is to sit around and prevent any real change from happening.

Other propaganda includes cartoons depicting the stereotypical scary anarchist with a knife in the left hand and an ignited round black bomb in the right. The television portrayal is no better with, for example, a show titled “Sons of Anarchy” providing images of men riding motorcycles as they shoot guns. Sounds more like “cowboys of the new age” than any anarchists that I know of today. Even worse is the “Anarchist Cookbook” detailing ways to execute violence and make illicit weapons. I fail to understand the title given that the book has no political message and certainly no relationship to the actual anarchist perspective. I need not go into the music and radio industry. As professor Noam Chomsky has succinctly put it: “Propaganda is to a democracy what the bludgeon is to a totalitarian state.”

It's no wonder that anarchists get all this shit. We are not defined by violence; we are defined by wanting true change and true freedom. This is the very reason why the ruling elites need to depict us as dangerous and anti-social. I know I have experienced hostility, anger, and even violence from individuals simply because I am an anarchist. Sometimes, they are the very same individuals I am standing up for and struggling for! But if being a champion for direct non-hierarchical leader-less democracy makes me the “bad guy,” then to me it is good to be bad. Peace, and viva la revolucion!

-B, Black Flag Staff Writer

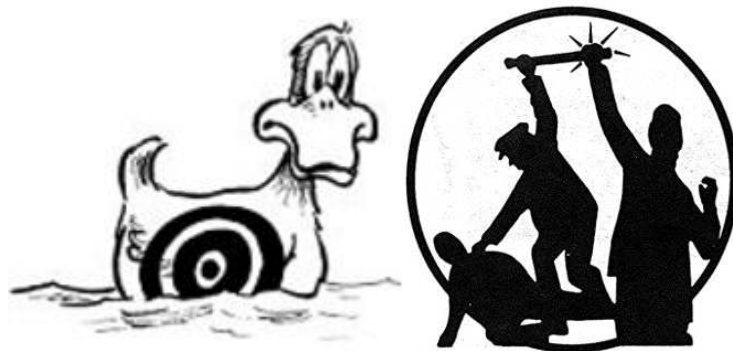
(“Condition of Compliance” continued)

With the consistency of psychological patterns that have been demonstrated by the research, it becomes clear how social conditioning combined with multiple factors of oppression can negatively influence individual well-being. Interconnected forms of psychological distress that include problems such as low-self esteem, depression, or even isolation can be connected back to conditions of oppression, within varying levels of intensity for different people depending on circumstances. However, with an empowering method of intervention, the emotional, physical, and mental state of people can be improved greatly, as long as this method entails challenging both personal and structural obstacles.

Direct Action

Don't be a sitting duck!!!

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail!!



We have the right to defend our bodies as much as our message!!

Historically protests, rallies and direct actions across the country have been raided by police, resulting in countless injuries, arrests and thievery of the peoples' supplies (including medical) and food. Your community action or campaign is not immune to being raided and disrupted by the pigs. Knowing this, are we gonna run? No ! Are we gonna be sitting ducks? No !! Then what ? Stand our ground? Yes! Resist oppression, police violence and domestic terrorism ? Yes ! Lets be strategic and seize the time. Are you in it to win it? Do you sincerely believe in positive change? Or are you only here because you are bored with your life and need something to fill the void? Rise up until victory...

FYI :A **black bloc** is a tactic for protests and marches, whereby individuals wear black clothing, scarves, ski masks, motorcycle helmets with padding, or other face-concealing items. The clothing is used to avoid being identified, and to, theoretically, appear as one large mass—promoting solidarity—and as a **faceless movement**. **As a black bloc, we don't condone or initiate violence. It's the police who do that. We simply advocate for people to defend themselves and hold their ground if and when the state unleashes its violence upon them.**

Tactics of a black bloc can include demonstrating without a permit, misleading the authorities, **assisting in the escape of people arrested by the police**, administering first aid to persons affected by tear gas in areas where protesters are barred from entering, building barricades and resisting the police. Historically, property destruction carried out by black blocs tends to have symbolic significance: common targets include banks,

("Don't Be a Sitting Duck" continued)

buildings, outlets for multinational corporations, gasoline stations, and video-surveillance cameras.

The tactic of wearing identical black clothes and masks meant that the people were better able to resist the police and elude identification.

•Create an affinity group. this means people are willing to:

- keep the group informed about their whereabouts, or stay within their visual range
- use a buddy system
- be accountable to the group and have each others' backs
- stay together in the street

General advice:

- Make sure you are not wearing or carrying anything that you would be really sad to lose, like jewelry, sentimental items, laptop, extra cash, or your diary from the last six months (carry a fresh notebook to the action).
- Minimize possible exposure of other persons as a result of your arrest. Don't carry your address book, palm pilot, or meeting notes! Think about your security and your comrades' security. All information the pigs collect will enter a Special Order 11 data base no matter how peaceful or law-abiding you are and used against you or some one close to you some how, some way at some time or another if they can help it. This is not a game! Will we be scared because of this ? NO !! Will we continue just that much more strategically and keep organizing with our guard up ? YES!!
- Enable passwords on cell phones, or don't even bring them at all.
- Soak bandanas with vinegar (so have a bottle of vinegar for your group) which serves as a filter against the tear gas. Also have eye wash handy.
- Wear a sweatshirt with a hoodie (protects head) or leather jacket—both serve as padding and protection. But you're gonna be hot and sweating?? Who cares !! Warrior up !!
- If you normally wear contact lenses wear glasses instead. Contacts can trap tear gas and toxic fumes, burning your eyes. Bring goggles too.
- Cooking pots can be used as shields (against batons and rubber bullets) or to cover up dispersed tear gas canisters. Or you can just throw canisters back where they came from. Wear gloves—heat resistant ones are better because those canisters get hot.
- Don't wear shoes that you wouldn't play basketball in. Who is more able to maneuver? The pigs wearing urban tactical boots? Revolutionaries wearing urban tactical boots? Homies rocking Chuckies? Or Hippies wearing sandals? You decide.
- Bring Spray paint. If domestic terrorists attack you, you can spray their visors of helmets, surveillance cameras and windshields of armored trucks blocking their vision, thus hindering their movement (Ex. Egypt and currently around the world, really)
- Build barricades. Create a wall or barrier between you and any threat as to hold them off or slow them down. Barricades protect the space from approaching police lines and enhances public safety.
- Be aware of your geographic location. Recognize weak points, strong points, Windows? Alleys?
- Create rendezvous points to meet up if you get separated.
- Wooden sticks on the protest signs could be used as splints in case of injury
- If arrest is imminent and you are carrying any kind of camera (maybe you can have a sticker with your email on the camera), chuck it to someone outside the arrest area and ask them to leave it with the legal team. It's safer with a stranger who's a protester than with the cops. Police often do not return cameras to arrestees! And even if you do get your camera back, you won't get your film back (including the images of your probably illegal arrest situation).
- Hold your ground, represent by example !!

If unfortunately arrested during community actions: say nothing !!!! meaning, SAY NOTHING !!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Remind yourself that the arrest and jail system are designed to make you feel powerless, vulnerable, dehumanized, and alone.
- Remind yourself that as bad as it is, you will get out (there is a light at the end of the tunnel, chill)
- Cops, guards and jail employees all lie. They lie in order to control you. They will lie in the form of threats to frighten you or coerce you and they will lie in the form of promises to pacify or manipulate you.
- Cops will attempt to manipulate you into admission or cooperation by saying your comrades snitched on you and revealed everything to them. Don't believe them. Keep your composure. (If you do happen to have coward ass chump squealers around you singing like canaries to the pigs, that knowledge will come out more sooner than later, such as within the reports, for example, or even worse—they testifying against you.)
- Cops and guards are not prosecutors and they are not judges. They do not decide what you are charged with nor what you will be sentenced with. They cannot negotiate with you about these things. Don't believe anything they say about charges or sentences. You're going to have to wait until your public pretender or lawyers can sort through it, so just don't try to figure it out while you're in jail.
- Don't admit to anything. Don't accept guilty pleas unless you talk to a lawyer about it. Don't talk with the police or guards about what happened or who did what. It will not help you or anyone else for you to babble. Remain silent! You do not have to participate in any kind of questioning while in custody. Repeat "I want to speak to my lawyer. I am going to remain silent." Say this over and over and over. It will NOT help you to participate in questioning.
- If your bullshit charges are not dropped or dismissed, don't be scared into signing pleas. Immediately put in a motion for the **Police Report** (contains charges, dialogue, inventory and other important details) and a **Motion of Discovery** (which is specific and all detailed evidence the state or prosecution is going to hit you with—chances are its not much if anything at all). This knowledge must be revealed to you and you lawyer. You can put in these motions yourself even if your public pretender isn't complying with you. Be assertive and persistent, do not be intimidated.

("Don't Be A Sitting Duck" continued)

The pigs will attempt to collect intel on activists and revolutionaries so as to disrupt our progress. They will add this info to a **Special Order 11** (Los Angeles) database that will be accessible to all state and federal agencies. All organizations and coalitions advocating for the people should adopt a form of security culture. This is real! This is not a hobby ! We want freedom. By any means necessary. These are our lives, these are our childrens' lives. Ya basta !!!

"If you are not part of the solution then you are a part of the problem"

"We are the ones we have been waiting for"



(Image Borrowed From
TheLucyParsonsProject.org)

The F@@ is taking submissions for the next issue. To contact the F@@, and to contribute content, email us at: faacollective@gmail.com.

From the Editors:

F@@'s 2nd Annual Skid Row Clothing Giveaway a Big Success

At 8 am on Christmas Day 2011, the F@@, accompanied by allies from the Young Communist League (YCL), passed out more than 1,000 pieces of clothing and several dozen cups of hot coffee to the down-and-out denizens of Skid Row's 5th and San Pedro street intersection. The clothing donations had been solicited by friends, comrades, and allies across the South Land in the six or so weeks directly preceding the December 25th event. Special thanks go out to Radical Women, the Freedom Socialist Party (FSP), and of course the YCL for their respective support and generous donations. The coffee was funded by donations to the F@@ and the dues of F@@ members.

The Skid Row community was very thankful, and many members stepped up to help facilitate the event, assisting with folding clothes on tables and helping fellow "shoppers" find needed items. One resident was so enthusiastic he insisted on being photographed alongside us, holding a Styrofoam cup of coffee and wearing a big grin.

Politically speaking, this event underscored both the importance of mutual aid activities and the building of parallel power, as well as the strength that can derive from anarchist and socialist organizations working together on common causes. As Otto von Bismarck warned his fellow potentates after the collapse of the Paris Commune: "Crowned heads, wealth, and privilege may well tremble should ever again the Black and Red unite!"

The F@@ is currently soliciting more clothing donations for our next event (Christmas Day 2012, or perhaps earlier if we collect enough donations). Email faacollective@gmail.com if you'd like to contribute.

Why the Black Flag?

Why is our flag black? Black is a shade of negation. The black flag is the negation of all flags. It is a negation of nationhood which puts the human race against itself and denies the unity of all humankind. Black is a mood of anger and outrage at all the hideous crimes against humanity perpetrated in the name of allegiance to one state or another. It is anger and outrage at the insult to human intelligence implied in the pretenses, hypocrisies, and cheap chicaneries of governments. Black is also a color of mourning; the black flag which cancels out the nation also mourns its victims the countless millions murdered in wars, external and internal, to the greater glory and stability of some bloody state. It mourns for those whose labor is robbed (taxed) to pay for the slaughter and oppression of other human beings. It mourns not only the death of the body but the crippling of the spirit under authoritarian and hierarchic systems; it mourns the millions of brain cells blacked out with never a chance to light up the world. It is a color of inconsolable grief.

But black is also beautiful. It is a color of determination, of resolve, of strength, a color by which all others are clarified and defined. Black is the mysterious surrounding of germination, of fertility the breeding ground of new life which always evolves, renews, refreshes and reproduces itself in darkness The seed hidden in the earth, the strange journey of the sperm, the secret growth of the embryo in the womb all these the blackness surrounds and protects.

So black is negation, is anger, is outrage, is mourning, is beauty, is hope, is the fostering and sheltering of new forms of human life and relationship on and with this earth. The black flag means all these things. We are proud to carry it, sorry we have to, and look forward to the day when such a symbol will no longer be necessary. --Howard Ehrlich, Reinventing Anarchy, Again, 1996